

Invasive Species in California

When a species is introduced to an area they are not naturally found in, they are considered a **non-native species**. A species found in an area naturally is considered a native species. When a non-native species harms the native species in an area, we call them an **invasive species**. California is home to hundreds of invasive species.

Pick an invasive species from the list and research the answers to following questions about your chosen species. Remember to use reliable sources, like websites ending in .edu or .gov.

Invasive Species in California:

- Nutria
- Mute Swan
- Grass Carp
- Zebra Mussel
- Sudden Oak Death
- Red-Eared Slider
- Chinese Mitten Crab
- Golden Mussel
- Channeled Apple Snail
- American Bullfrog
- Chytrid Fungus
- Wild Boar
- Feral Cats

1. How does this invasive species cause harm to the ecosystem?
2. How did this invasive species get to California?
3. List the counties this invasive species can be found in within California.
4. Is there a plan in place to remove this species? Is there a plan to prevent more of this species in California?
5. Invasive species don't just impact local ecosystems. They can impact things like tourism, the economy, and human health. Research the impact this invasive species has on humans, positively or negatively. What is their impact on people?
6. Write a realistic solution to the invasive species problem outlined above. If there is already a plan in place, please write how you think the plan could be improved. Please take into consideration how humans involved may feel about your solution.

